

There are a number of reasons, but one of the basic reasons is that over, I believe, 67 per cent of all the business of CN today is done in the West. That is why Transcona will be the principal place for heavy repairs to CN equipment. I have not read the report myself but I have been thoroughly briefed on the report.

[Translation]

REQUEST THAT MINISTER TABLE INFORMATION

Mr. Jacques Guilbault (Saint-Jacques): Mr. Speaker, this answer is a slight improvement over what I heard last week. Still I should like to ask the Minister—after all he did approve the CN decision, as did the Minister of State (Transport), since both of them said they were not prepared to intervene—whether at least he would table in the House the information which will enable Members here to judge whether or not CN officials made a sound decision. If the Minister is not prepared to do that, I have another suggestion, namely set up a meeting between him and the Pointe-Saint-Charles workers just so he might answer them directly.

[English]

Hon. John C. Crosbie (Minister of Transport): Mr. Speaker, the way in which the hon. gentleman could be most helpful to the employees of Pointe-Saint-Charles is to assist and back CN in its efforts to ensure that contract work is obtained for the Pointe-Saint-Charles shops, which is what it is determined to do. It now gets the work from VIA. It is launching a marketing effort to go after business from the United States and the Hon. Member's support, I am sure, would be very helpful to it in that task which will ensure that employment continues for everyone who now works there.

GOVERNMENT ORDERS

[English]

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

RESUMPTION OF DEBATE ON ADDRESS IN REPLY

The House resumed consideration of the motion of Mrs. Collins for an Address to Her Excellency the Governor General in reply to her speech at the opening of the session; and the amendment thereto of Mr. Turner (Vancouver Quadra) (p. 44) and the amendment to the amendment of Mr. Broadbent (p. 57).

Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs): Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to take part in the debate on the Speech from the Throne to discuss certain of the initiatives this Government has undertaken in international affairs in the first two years of our mandate and some of the challenges which lie ahead. One of the reforms of this Government was precisely to open up debate on foreign policy in Canada. On nine separate occasions in our first two years, my colleagues and I have taken advantage of ministerial statements in Parliament to allow this Parliament to discuss

international questions. In the four years previous, our predecessors did not once make use of that instrument. We established for the first time in history a means for a joint committee of this House and the other place to invite individual Canadians to express their hopes and views about what we should be doing in the world. The rules of Parliament do not oblige me to respond formally to the report which ensued, but in the spirit of our parliamentary democracy I intend to table a full response within the next few weeks.

We believe that one of the great untapped resources of Canadian foreign policy is the interest, expertise and concern of individual Canadians who want to help to build a better world. This is an international country. Just look at this House. You yourself, Sir, as Speaker, were born in Yokohama. One of your Deputies was born just outside of Crakow. One in seven of our citizens has family roots in Eastern Europe. The origins of fully one third Canadians are neither French nor Anglo-Saxon. We come here from everywhere and we are thereby connected by a strong and human bond to perspectives and opportunities which more limited nations cannot enjoy.

The personal tradition of Canadians has been to reach out to the world. One can see it in our missionaries, our merchants and the small army of Canadian aid and development workers. One sees it in our businesses which build schools, dams and highways, extending technology on every continent. One sees it in our soldiers fighting for freedom in war, working for peace now.

Personally, I and my colleague, the Minister of Communications (Miss MacDonald), will never forget the generosity of the Canadian response to the crisis of the boat people who were cast adrift to die on the China Seas. That direct involvement in the world is as much a part of the Canadian character as our cultural diversity, our bilingualism and our history of triumph over hard geography. That is a tradition on which this Government is determined to build. We began with the extraordinary Canadian response to famine in Africa. The Government mobilized quickly and I believe effectively, but the people of Canada led the response. So it was on a smaller scale that Canadian individuals responded so quickly and so well to natural and political crises in Mexico, Haiti, Colombia and the Philippines. As their Minister, I salute the public servants who go extra miles and work extra hours when crises arise abroad. In their names, I want to also thank the thousands of individual Canadians who follow their generous international instincts when these crises occur.

We are taking other steps to mobilize this Canadian vocation for constructive internationalism. As one example, a group of six members of the Canadian Young Presidents Organization will depart for Manila on November 14 where they will work with officials of the Philippines to devise and identify programs and opportunities that will let the world's private sector help President Aquino consolidate the great reforms she has begun. We are also, of course, helping the Philippines in all the traditional ways. However, the real need now is the kind of economic performance that will win